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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF VLADIMIR IVANOVICH SMIRNOV

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Vladimir Ivanovich Smirnov was born 29 May 1887 in St Petersburg. In 1910, Smirnov completed the course at St Petersburg University. In 1912, he started his scientific work at that university. One of his first published works was "Equilibrium Forms of an Elastic Fiber under Uniform Normal Pressures." From 1912 to 1930, he was a professor at the Institute of Transportation Engineers located at St Petersburg and Leningrad. From 1915 to 1949, he was a professor at Petersburg, later to be known as the Leningrad, University.

In 1918, he submitted his first candidate's dissertation, entitled "Problem of Transformation of a Second-Order Linear Differential Equation with Four Singular Points." In 1921, he was appointed chief of the mathematics section of the newly organized Physics Faculty at Leningrad University. In 1925, he began organizing a Mathematics Faculty at Leningrad State University, particularly the Chair of Theory of Functions of Complex Variables. From 1929 to 1935, he was chief of the Theoretical Division of the Seismological Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR. At that time he was also a senior scientific associate at the Mathematics Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR.

In 1931, he played an important part in the organization of the Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics at Leningrad State University. From 1931 to 1937, he was Deputy for Scientific Sections for the Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics at Leningrad State University. In 1932, he was elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences USSR. From 1937 to 1949, he was Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics at Leningrad State University. In 1943 he was elected an active member of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

In 1944, he received the Order of Labor Red Banner in connection with the 125th Anniversary of Leningrad State University and for his excellent work in the field of science and pedagogy. In the period 1944 to 1949 he was chief of the Chair of the Theory of Elasticity and temporarily was chief of the Chair of Hydroaeromechanics at Leningrad State University. In 1945, he was awarded the Order

of Labor Red Banner in connection with the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Sciences USSR. In 1947, he was awarded the Order of Lenin for excellent work in mathematics and for the preparation of highly qualified students, as well as in connection with his 60th birthday. In 1945, he was given the Stalin Prize, 2d class, for his scientific work "Course in Higher Mathematics."

Smirnov has studied and written in various fields of mathematics; also on various problems of the theory of the function of complex variables and their application. One of his first works illustrated a simple solution for the problem of normalizing any algebraic equation with the aid of a Fuchsian function with natural boundaries. Previously, these same problems were used to solve a very complex construction. Generally, Smirnov's works are connected with studies on the boundary values of functions of complex variables and their internal structure. His works are of great importance, particularly those on the theory of fluctuation of vibration. He was one of the first to study the sources of fluctuation.

The published works of Smirnov can be divided into four general groups. The first group includes works connected with the theory of automorphic functions: "Application of the Principle of Convergence to the Theory of Uniformization" (1918), "Problems in the Transformation of Second-Order Linear Differential Equations and Automorphic Functions" (1920), "Second-Order Linear Differential Equations and the Theory of Amorphic Functions" (1921), "The Rational Transformation of Second-Order Linear Differential Equations" (1927), and "Fundamental Field of Groups of Movement on a Flat Lobachevskiy-Bolyai Plane" (1927).

The second group is on the theory of function of complex variables and the theory of the function of real variables. Among the works in this groups are: "The Theory of Orthogonal Polynomials of Complex Variables" (1928), "The Limit Value of Analytic Functions" (1929), "The Limit Value of Regular Functions Inside a Circle" (1928), "The Cauchy-Green Formula and Related Problems" (1932), and "The Correspondence of Limits of Boundaries in Conformal Reflections" (1933).

The third group consists of works on the theory of oscillation. Among these are: "The Plane Problem of Rigid Oscillations" (1932), which was done with S. L. Sobolev; "A New Method in the Planar Problems of Rigid Oscillations" (1932), together with S. L. Sobolev; "The Application of a New Method for Studying Rigid Oscillations in Space With Axial Symmetry" (1933), together with S. L. Sobolev; "Solution of a Limit Problem for Wave Direction in the Case of a Circle and a Sphere" (1937); and "Solution of a Limit Problem of Theory of Rigidity in the Case of a Circle and Sphere" (1937).

The fourth group of Smirnov's work includes "A Series of Polynomials" (1926), "Some Series of Polynomials" (1927), and "Some Polynomials With Experimental Properties" (1928).

Among Smirnov's recent books are "A Course in Higher Mathematics" and "Integral Equations," both published in 1948.

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